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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Daisaku Haoto et al

SERIAL NO. 10/813,538

FILED: March 30, 2004

TITLE: PROTECTIVE COAT AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING  
THEREOF

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment in the above-identified a new patent application.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the attached amended claims.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the indicated specification paragraphs with the attached amended specification paragraphs.

**REMARKS**

The claims and specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. In the claims there was originally two Claims 17. The second Claim 17 has been renumbered as Claim 18.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date